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# The Voice

## What Would You Do?

Excerpt from: The Connection - Spring 2008

By: Judge Glenda A. Hatchett



Imagine for a moment that you come home one day and all of your possessions are piled on the front porch of your house in garbage bags. When you turn to your family - the people you counted on yesterday for shelter and support - they tell you that they won't be there for you anymore. Then one of them hands you a check for a small amount of money and says, "Go, make your way in the world."

Even as an adult with rich life experiences to draw on, what would you do?

Now think of an 18-year-old being put in that position because he is exiting the foster care system. Unlike your or me, he hasn't been given the best of what our society has to offer. His education has been interrupted by frequent moves, and his resume comprises a short list of low-wage jobs. He has no credit history, no car and - as of today - no home. All the family that this young person has ever known have been affiliated with the foster care system, and now they are done. Each year, nearly 25,000 children age out of the foster care system when they turn 18 (21 in some states). The legal term for this occurrence is emancipation. But, to me, the word that really describes the situation of these youth is uncertainty. They have been so preoccupied with - and sometimes overwhelmed by - their day-to-day survival that they have not had an opportunity to plan for their future. These youth are facing one of the most difficult and defining moments in their lives without a clear understanding

of their options.

Sadly, national statistics show us that a few options are exercised regularly: Nearly 60% of foster youth drop out or fail out of high school; 25% face jail terms within two years of their emancipation from foster care; 20% experience homelessness; and less than 3% earn college degrees by the age of 25.

That's why it is so important to have CASA and GAL volunteers involved in our young peoples' lives leading up to this critical juncture. These and other caring adults can prevent teenagers from becoming another statistic. CASA volunteers can work with youth to help them chart a course and create a plan. Volunteers can ask teens the critical questions that need to be asked and offer them the advice that most of us took for granted growing up: "If you want to go to college, these are the tests you need to take"; "If you want to go to vocational school, these are the organizations you need to contact"; and so on. CASA volunteers can - and do - help youth look at aging out as a next step toward a wonderful new chapter in their lives rather than a dead end.

I am grateful for the efforts of every CASA volunteer who is helping to guide a young person along the path to greatness.

*The Honorable Glenda A. Hatchett is a nationally recognized authority on juvenile issues perhaps best known for her award winning television*

series Judge Hatchett and her book Say What You Mean, Mean What You Say!

Effective 9/2/2008 please submit the 2008 State Mileage Claim form available online at the Tippecanoe County CASA website. Due to the calculations on the form, it MUST be completed, printed and the signed original mailed to the CASA office. If you do not have computer access, please give Sandy a call.

JUST A REMINDER, reimbursement of out of county case travel is limited to one trip per month!



## Independent Living—Websites

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Here are some helpful websites with information on independent living and continuing education. Some are geared to CASAs and some to youth.

[www.nationalcasa.org](http://www.nationalcasa.org) (Please view the Spring 2008—The Connection - devoted to aging out of the system)

[www.casey.org](http://www.casey.org) - Casey Family Scholarship

[www.orphan.org](http://www.orphan.org) - Orphan Foundation of America

[www.statevoucher.org](http://www.statevoucher.org) - Chaffee Education & Training vouchers

[www.in.gov/dcs/2406.htm](http://www.in.gov/dcs/2406.htm) - IN Dept of Child Services

[www.in.gov/ssaci/2345.htm](http://www.in.gov/ssaci/2345.htm)—21st Century Scholars

[www.youthcomm.org](http://www.youthcomm.org) - Sept/Oct 2008 edition Getting Ready for College

[www.educationalsuccesses.org](http://www.educationalsuccesses.org)

[www.driveofyourlife.org](http://www.driveofyourlife.org)

[www.knowhow2go.org](http://www.knowhow2go.org)

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### Teen Suicide and What You Need to Know by:

**Melissa Morrison**

The Indiana Youth Workers Café sponsored an information session on this topic presented by Jane McCann of the Lafayette Crisis Center. The following resources were made available and we would like to pass this on to our volunteers.

Crisis Center Teen Line - 423-1872

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1-800-273-TALK

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention - [www.afsp.org](http://www.afsp.org)

Suicide Prevention Resource Center - [www.sprc.org](http://www.sprc.org)

Indiana Youth Institute - [www.iyi.org](http://www.iyi.org)

As volunteers we will work with teens who have many of the RISK FACTORS that could possibly lead to thoughts of suicide.

- \* Family instability/conflict
- \* Substance abuse
- \* Ineffective coping skills
- \* Alienation
- \* Abuse/trauma
- \* Onset of mental illness
- \* Rage or self harm
- \* Difficulties adjusting to new demands— new school, foster care, residential placement

Possible Warning Signs:

- \* Talk about committing suicide

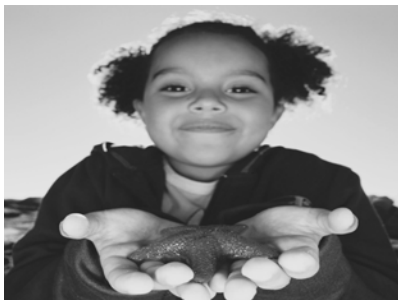
- \* Prior attempts
- \* Taking unnecessary risks
- \* No sense of purpose in life
- \* Trouble or changes in eating and/or sleeping
- \* Loss of interest in personal appearance
- \* Recent significant loss (as defined by them)
- \* Giving away prized possessions
- \* Preoccupation with death or dying

How to help?

- \* LISTEN, LISTEN, LISTEN
- \* Take threats seriously
- \* Offer empathy rather than sympathy
- \* Avoid asking why
- \* Offer alternatives
- \* Take action and get professional help
- \* Don't promise secrecy
- \* Be direct and ask if they are thinking about suicide
- \* Remain non-judgmental and tell them you care

As CASAs we tend to be the only constant in a teen's life. Therefore, that may put us in a situation where we will notice the risk factors before anyone else does. Suicide is preventable and help is available. We hope that you find the above resources useful, as suicide is the 2nd ranking cause of death among Hoosier youth ages 15-19.

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### It matters to this one...

From Laramie County, Wyoming CASA website

As dawn broke over the beach,  
the old man asked the youth why he was flinging starfish into the sea.  
The answer was they'd die if left in the sun.  
"But the beach goes on for miles and there are millions of them," he muttered.  
"What difference is it going to make?"  
The young man looked at the starfish and said, as he threw it to safety,  
"It makes a difference to this one."

## Have you heard?



**Ann Mitchell's** son Paul married Erica Anderson-Wood, April 19, 2008. The ceremony was held at Christ Church Cathedral on Monument Circle in Indianapolis, reception followed at the Columbia Club.

**Maggie Yarnall** has two new, beautiful, twin grand-daughters, Ella Katherine and Emerson Rose.

Our own **Jennifer Browning** married Kevin Ingle on September 20th.

**Bill Gettings'** daughter Annie Grandmelspacher has become a CASA in Jasper, IN. After hearing about her father's work as a CASA, she decided that it was something she would like to do for her community.

Our deepest condolences go out to **Judy Lidester** and her family on the loss of her husband, Tom. As well, our thoughts are with **Cathy Nichols** and her family on the loss of her husband, Dave.

CASA attorney, **Ladona Sorenson** gave birth to a boy, Gregory Lewis.

Hoping for a speedy recovery to **Sandra McDanel** after her recent surgery and **Margaret Rogler** after her knee surgery.

**Kevin Brooks'** daughter Nicole recently announced her engagement.

**Julie Townsend** said yes! No wedding date has yet been set.

Congratulations to **Leta Kelley** on her retirement from The Crisis Center after 35 YEARS!

Rose Hulman's "Homework Hotline" is open for the 2008-09 school year. Students in grades 6-12 can contact the "Homework Hotline" toll-free at 1-877-ASKROSE or on-line at [www.askRose.org](http://www.askRose.org) for math and science homework help. Hotline hours are 7 p.m. thru 10 p.m., Sunday thru Thursday. For more info call (812) 877-8319 or go to [www.askRose.org](http://www.askRose.org).

LAFAYETTE SCHOOL CORPORATION (LSC) announces.....

Title 1 Preschool for children not living in the LSC district and not currently enrolled in another program. For more information call 771-6047.

## Thank yous & such

THANK YOU to our picnic sponsors: **Mulberry Health and Retirement Center** \$250.00, **Sam's Club** a \$25.00 gift card and **Wal-Mart** a \$25.00 gift card. We couldn't have done it without them. Thanks to all that were able to attend.

THANK YOU to **Meijer** for their \$40.00 gift card which will be used for our fall training session.

THANK YOU to **Joe Kleinaitis**, General Manager of our local Lafayette Target Superstore and his wife, **Elaine Kleinaitis** for their continued support by again

donating a generous supply of backpacks and school supplies for our CASA kids.

THANK YOU to **Kris Hart** and **Smith Office** for their donation of stocked backpacks and folders.

The CASAs and our CASA kids really appreciate the kindness you all have shown.

The world is hugged by the faithful arms of volunteers. *Everett Mamor*

## Happy Birthday!!

October:	Mary Hood	Richard Blackburn	Lisa Fairow	Janet Smith
Karen Brooks	Melissa Morrison	Thomas Brennan	Cara Giese	Jennifer Wilkerson
Julie Collins	April Richardson	Kevin Brooks	Kristi Laxton	
Nancy Cook	Betty Robison	Karen Cooperider	Kristy Miller	
Barbara Holt	November:	Karen DeZarn	Beth Moore	



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**"Polygraph Examinations and SAFTIP" -**  
Thursday, October 2 - Tippecanoe Room, County  
Office Building - 12:00 p.m. To 1:30 p.m.

Presented by Neil Remakulus, Polygraph Examiner

Please RSVP to 423-9109 ext 0 SPACE IS LIMITED

### **Proclamation, Clothesline Project Kick Off Domestic Violence Month - Wednesday, October 1—Ivy Hall, Ivy Tech Com- munity College - Noon**

The YWCA Domestic Violence Intervention and Prevention Program will kick off Domestic Violence Awareness Month with a proclamation and the opening of The Clothesline Project. This event is free and open to the public. The Clothesline Project features the display of T-shirts decorated by adults and children who have been affected by domestic violence or sexual assault.

### **Kappa Alpha Theta Grill Off - Sunday, October 5 - Kappa Al- pha Theta, 607 Russell St., West Lafayette - 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

Please plan to attend this annual event to benefit CASA For Kids Fund. Delicious food and fun for all.

### **Personal Story Shows How Domestic Violence Affects Children - Monday, October 27th YWCA - 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Network Luncheon will be dedicated to the topic of "Domestic Violence From a Child's Perspective." Speaker Michelle Shaffer adopted three girls who are survivors of the most extreme domestic violence situation: Their biological mother and their 7-year-old sister were murdered by their mother's husband on June 1, 2005. Shaffer hopes to give a voice to the children's emotions and experiences. Cost \$12 per person

Register by phone at 742-0075 or at YWCA front desk for more information [www.ywca.org/lafayette/network](http://www.ywca.org/lafayette/network)

### **New CASA training dates set**

The following dates are set for training. You are welcome to attend any or all of them for a refresher. It will count toward your in-service hours. Evening hours will start at 6 and Saturday will be 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Mon, 10/27; Thurs 10/30; Thurs 11/6; Thurs 11/13; Mon, 11/17;  
Thurs 11/20; Tues 12/2; Sat 12/6 and Tues 12/9

Swearing in will be Wednesday, December 17, 2008

### **4th Annual Tippecanoe County Stopping Child Abuse Summit - Wednesday, November 5**

Save the date. More information to follow.

### **Third annual Community Conference on Child Psychiatry - Saturday, November 8, 2008 - Kathryn Weil Center for Education, Medical Arts Building, 415 N. 26th St., Ste. 400, Lafayette - 7:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.**

This practical conference is for those who care for children with difficult behaviors. Cost \$35 per person

Register at Mental Health America of Tippecanoe County  
[www.mhalafayette.org](http://www.mhalafayette.org) 765-742-1800



### **FREE Flu Shot Clinic - Saturday, November 15th - Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds, Home Economics Bldg. - 8:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**NO CHARGE TO THE FIRST 3,000 ADULTS** (minimum of 18 years old.) Tippecanoe County Health Department has a special grant that will pay for 3,000 flu shots on this day only.

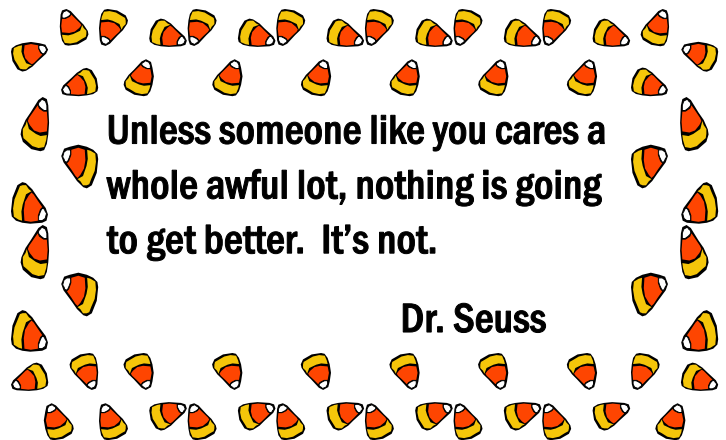
### **CASA conferences**

State CASA Conference will be November 22, 2008 at the Marriott East, Indianapolis.

National CASA Conference will be April 25-28, in Denver, CO. Additional information will follow as available.

### **Holiday Luncheon - Monday, December 8 - Tippecanoe Room, County Office Building—11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

Please save the date for our annual Holiday luncheon. More details to follow.





We realize that the most effective recruiters of new CASA volunteers are current and former volunteers themselves. Personal volunteer recruitment all comes down to one volunteer or CASA Program supporter reaching out to another caring adult and engaging them in our cause for abused and neglected children. *We will be developing a recruitment campaign (that will feature these recruitment cards) early in 2009, but wanted to give you a quick introduction to what it will be.....so think of someone that you know would be a great advocate for kids and pass this referral card on..... thank you!*



# Imagine

*Tippecanoe County as a place where children live free from the harm of abuse and neglect.*



# Believe

*That every advocate that speaks up for a child is a powerful voice in court.*



# Achieve

*A CASA volunteer for every abused and neglected child in our community...making a difference one child at a time.*





Courthouse, 301 Main St.  
Lafayette, IN 47901

Phone: 765-423-9109  
Fax: 765-423-9710  
E-mail: [casa@tippecanoe.in.gov](mailto:casa@tippecanoe.in.gov)

*Powerless children, need  
powerful friends*

Alicia's addict parents neglected her.

She was placed in a group home.

No one detected depression.

She attempted suicide.

*ALICIA HAS A REASON  
TO SMILE AGAIN.*

*BE THE  
DIFFERENCE.  
VOLUNTEER.*

*CASA VOLUNTEER  
STEP IN HERE.*

Tippecanoe County Casa (765)423-9109



CASA